

May 12, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Supplement to Minutes of NSC Meeting of May 12, 1954

At its luncheon meeting of May 12, the NSC discussed the proposed Mutual Defense and Lease-Base Agreement with Thailand as proposed by General Donovan in his cable to the Secretary of State on May 10. General Donovan had proposed, as a means of strengthening the defensive position of Thailand, that the U.S. quickly negotiate a leased-base agreement with Thailand similar to that used in England and deploy one F4G Fighter Wing to Thailand; that Korat be prepared as an immediate base site; and that another base be built in the Kra Peninsula so that an effective base for our air operations would be available within the present defense plan in the event of enemy invasion of Thailand.

Following discussion of this matter, the Board concluded as follows:

1. The views of the JCS should be obtained with particular reference to availability of aircraft, possibility of supplying the base, cost, etc. In this connection, it is noted that the views of General Gilmore have not yet been received.
2. The Department of State should obtain the views of the Under Secretary of State as to the psychological effect of such an action upon the Geneva Conference. It was the view of the Board that the primary objective of early action suggested by General Donovan on the proposal would be to achieve the maximum effect on the Geneva Conference, and further that if the effect were negative or neutral, the urgency of decision on the matter would be lessened.
3. The proposal should be considered by the NSC in the context of other discussions and arrangements with respect to regional defense measures for SEA.

NSC review(s) completed.

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4. This matter gives additional urgency to the decision on the source of funds and the desirability of constructing the Northeast Highway in Thailand. It was agreed that the staffs of FOA and Defense would immediately undertake to reach a decision on the matter even in the absence of construction specifications and precise cost estimates.

Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

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